

Date: 2/6/08
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Re: Streamside Setbacks
From: Shaen McElravy
Stevensville, MT 59870

RECEIVED

FEB 7 2008

Ravalli County Commissioners
[] [] [] [] []

Dear Commissioners:

People can maintain their property rights and have streamside setbacks also. The Bitterroot is a braiding river and homes should be anywhere from 100 feet to 500 feet from the river because of its history of channeling.

Septics should be kept anywhere from 200 feet to 500 feet from the river because of pollution (ie pharmaceuticals and over the counter drugs) that are polluting the ground waters. If a property owner wants to be closer than the suggested distance a wastewater treatment plant should be ordered.

Ravalli County has already reached septic density that the DEQ describes as moderate to high hazardous risk. We need to take action now because we will not be able to fix the problem of polluted rivers 5 or 10 years from now. Once the river or wells start to be contaminated we will see a huge drop in property values because people will not come here to live. That means that they will not come here to recreate or buy homes.

You did a good job on planning for expansion that could happen in 5, 10 and 20 years with the 911 services. Now is the time to plan for streamside setbacks so that we will not have the pollution problems five years from now that are occurring in Helena and through a substantial portion of Oregon.

Cordially,

Shaen McElravy

